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Gold and Silver for Brendan at Canadian Biathlon Championships

Charlo, NB (March 22-25, 2007)
Brendan Green wrapped up his competitive season with two podium finishes at the Canadian Biathlon Championships. Brendan battled freezing rain and icy trails to win his first event, the 15 km Individual Competition. After three misses on the first set of targets, he managed to regain control of his shooting and collect only two additional minutes in shooting penalties in the next three times through the range. Strong skiing enabled him to overcome the 5 errors to cross the finish in 48:28.2 -his racing gear caked in ice.

Brendan enjoyed a better result on the range in the 10 km Sprint Race, with only one miss and penalty loop to complete. In spite of great shooting, he was unable to catch Quebec's Maxime Leboeuf, finishing 37 seconds off the winning time to take the silver medal. In the final race of the series, the 12.5 km Pursuit, Brendan came up short with his shooting, and was forced to ski 9 additional penalty loops which put him out of the running for the medals. In an exciting sprint to the finish, Brendan did manage to overtake two challengers to secure 5th place, with the three crossing the finish line within one second of each other.

These championships bring to a successful close what has been a really great season for Brendan. They also mark a milestone in his development- his last series of races as a junior biathlete. When he next moves to the starting line, it will be as a senior.

N.W.T. Team mate and Hay River biathlete Mark LeBlanc made his debut at nationals in the Sr Boys category. Mark's strength was in his skiing; he skied well in all his races, and showed that he could be a contender with improvement in the shooting range. Mark was consistent in his placings throughout the competition, finishing 19th and 20th in the Individual and the Sprint. In his final race, the 7.5 km Pusuit Race, Mark picked up 11 penalties to finish 19th out or 35 competitors, just over 9 minutes off the winning time. Yellowknife biathlete Lindsey Bolivar, competing in the Senior Women category, rounded out the team. Lindsey came through with strong shooting hitting 17 for 20 to take an 8th place finish in her best event, the 10 km Pursuit. She also finished 9th in the Individual, and 10th in the Sprint.

The N.W.T. Biathletes were coached by Hay River's Pat Bobinski, who reported that he was very pleased with the overall performance of the team.